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PREPARED AND DISSEMINATED BY CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY		REPORT NO. 25X1A	
COUNTRY USSR	DATE DISTRIBUTED 14 Dec 54		
SUBJECT Analysis of Photographs Purporting to Show Soviet Atomic Explosions	NO. OF PAGES 2		NO. OF ENCLS.
PLACE ACQUIRED (By source) 25X1A		SUPPLEMENT TO REPORT #	
DATE ACQUIRED (By source)	RESPONSIVE TO		
Dec 54 and earlier	OO/C: 25X1X		
SOURCE			
1. 25X1X			
<p>"15 Dec 54</p> <p>"Dear _____,</p> <p>"I hope you did receive the registered letter with pictures of the atomic explosion I sent few days ago.</p> <p>"Something most interesting happened since, which I want to inform you about at once.</p> <p>"In the today's (15 Dec 54) issue of the London Communist paper 'Daily Worker,' on the first page they published a picture of an atomic explosion, without <u>any comments</u> or explanations as to the origin of their picture.</p> <p>"The 'Daily Worker' picture is the picture of the series 'air atomic explosion' from the 'Red Star' of 3 Aug 54 (Glisov's article)- <u>only taken a split second later.</u></p> <p>"I did meticulously compare both and there is no doubt that they are <u>two pictures</u>, taken one after another ('Red Star' picture first, 'Daily Worker's later) of the same air atomic explosion. ('Daily Worker's picture is better reproduced.)</p> <p>"This seems to clinch the question - whether or not it was a Soviet explosion.</p> <p>"I reconstitute this riddle in the following way - Soviet authorities did cautiously release some of their explosion pictures, to prove discreetly that they possess this weapon.</p> <p>"They did not say so, but published one picture in 'Red Star' and sent one for publication abroad, which went here naturally to 'Daily Worker.'</p>			
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"They wanted only to give a hint - not to splash their news - it is why 'Daily Worker' did not comment at all on this picture. They cannot boast about their bombs too much - especially here - because it would affect their peace propaganda.

"But on the other hand they want to show their strength. Especially now, after Moscow conference of Soviet orbit leaders against German rearmament, so they send these pictures to be published.

"Otherwise it would be inconceivable how the same explosion is pictured in August in Moscow 'Red Star' and in December in the Communist daily in London.

"This is not a coincidence--but the result of the fact that they released for publication the pictures of this given air explosion, made in USSR - and they found their way through the Soviet picture agency to both these Communist papers."

2. In a subsequent communication 16 Dec 54, [REDACTED] ^{25X1X6} stated that the pictures were:

- a. Not over any Central Asiatic desert
- b. Possibly over flat northern tundra territory inland
- c. Possibly over an island or coastal territory on the Soviet Arctic.

25X1X6

[REDACTED] stated further that he leaned to the third possibility as the most likely.

On file in CIA Library are two photographs, one of which appeared in the Red Army publication, Red Star, August 1954, the other appeared in the London Daily Worker, December 1954.

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